



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - February 25, 2003

- ***In the West***, another major winter storm is providing drought-easing precipitation across ***southern California*** and the ***Four Corners region***. Nevertheless, water-supply prospects remain grim in most areas from the ***Rockies westward*** due to the cumulative effects of a multi-year drought.
- ***On the Plains***, a variable snow cover continues to help protect the still-dormant winter wheat crop from ***Montana to northern Oklahoma***, where this morning's low temperatures generally ranged from 0 to -20 degrees F. Farther south, however, very cold weather (temperatures ranging from 5 to 15 degrees F) across ***southern Oklahoma*** and ***northern and western Texas*** is causing possible burn back of recent wheat growth.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a substantial snow cover is providing insulation for winter wheat across the ***Ohio Valley*** and ***lower Great Lakes region***, but bitterly cold weather is maintaining stress on ***Midwestern*** livestock. This morning's ***Midwestern*** low temperatures were mostly below 0 degrees F.
- ***In the South***, a fast-moving disturbance is producing a variety of weather—including snow, freezing rain, and rain—from the ***western Gulf Coast region to the southern Appalachians***. Winter weather advisories and winter storm warnings are posted as far south as ***south-central Texas*** and the ***Mississippi Delta***.

Outlook: For the remainder of today, a slow-moving Pacific storm system will bring widespread precipitation to the ***Southwest***, while light rain and snow will accompany a weak disturbance moving across the ***Delta and Southeast***. By mid-week, a developing winter storm will move northeastward across the ***central Gulf Coast States***, bringing another round of rain and snow to the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***. In the storm's wake, light precipitation will linger across the ***southern Rockies and central and southern Plains***. Cold, dry weather will persist across the ***nation's northern tier***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 2 - 6 calls for above-normal precipitation on the ***northern High Plains*** and along the ***eastern Gulf and southern Atlantic Coasts***. Meanwhile, below-normal precipitation is forecast in the ***Northwest, Midwest, and Northeast***. Below-normal temperatures are forecast nearly nationwide, except for warmer-than-normal weather in ***southern Florida***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)